

The drawings have been objected to in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

New Formal drawings were submitted on 3/25/05, and are resubmitted herewith.

The following reference signs mentioned in the description have now been added to the formal drawings. (See marked up copy of the drawings as filed with changes marked in red, and clean copy of new formal drawings submitted on 3/25/05).

Distal end 27 (See FIG. 4A , 4B, 5C, 6A and 6B) and Paragraph [0034].

Frame portion 15 (See FIG. 1 and 2) and paragraph [0028] and [0029].

Lower end 42 (See FIG. 4A, 4B, 6B) and paragraph [0035].

Upper portion 44 (See FIG. 4A, 4B, 6B) and paragraph [0036].

Distal end 68 (See FIG. 4B) and paragraph [0059].

Indicia 31 (See FIG. 1, 2) and paragraph [0042].

Vinyl material 36 (See FIG. 1, 2) and paragraph [0042].

First and/or second rigid member 34, 35 (See FIG. 3) and paragraph [0044].

Opposing sides 38, now 38A and 38B (See FIG. 3) and paragraph [0044].

Light fixture 84 (See FIG. 2) and paragraph [0062].

Multiple points of light 89 (See FIG. 9A) and paragraph [0062].

The following reference sign(s) have been added to the specification and/or drawings for clarity: lower portion 93 (See FIG. 3) and paragraph [0062].

Upper portion 94 (See FIG. 3) and paragraph [0062].

Inner side of first vertical member 95 (See FIG. 3) and paragraph [0062].

Inner side of second vertical member 96 (See FIG. 3) and Paragraph [0062].

Releasable securement means 33 (See FIG. 4A, 4B) and Paragraph [0043].

Threaded bolt 67 and Nut 45 (See FIG. 4B) and Paragraph [0048].

Distal end 65 of clamping arm (See FIG. 4A, 4B) and Paragraph [0035].

Pivot Aperture 79 (See FIG. 4B, 7C and 7F) and Paragraph [0048].

As previously noted, the drawings as originally filed have changes marked in red. New Corrected formal drawings were enclosed on 3/25/05, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

The specification has been amended to more clearly claim applicant's invention, in accordance with the drawings and specification as originally filed. Each paragraph has been consecutively numbered, in accordance with current format procedures. See copy of amended specification and clean copy of the amended specification, enclosed.

Paragraph [0062] of the specification has been amended to include a light string 87, to comply with drawing 9B as originally filed.

Paragraph [0037] of the specification has been amended to add: The clamping arm is preferably offset at least four inches inward of the opposing ends to avoid obstacles located beneath the table top. This terminology is found in claim 9, as originally filed, and has been incorporated into the specification to provide antecedent basis.

Opposing sides 38 has been amended in the drawings FIG. 3 and specification in paragraph [0044] and [0045] to read, opposing sides 38A and 38B.

Paragraph [0048] has been amended in line 1-2, following "pivotally secured 48", to read with a threaded bolt 67 and nut 45. The bolt head 48 is clearly shown in FIG. 4B as originally filed.

The specification has been amended in Paragraph [0059], second line by adding after "fastener" - - ,such as a suitable bolt 67 and nut 45, - - As previously mentioned, the bolt head 48 is clearly shown in FIG. 4B as originally filed.

(See specification as filed, marked up copy, and clean copy as amended.).

As previously noted, in paragraph [0062] after "lower portion" add 93; after "upper portion" add 94; after "inner side", line 5 add 95; and after "inner side", line 6, add 96.

In paragraph [0068], line 5, after "lighting", add 84.

A parts list is also included with this amendment for the examiners convenience.

CLAIMS

Rewrite Claims 1 and Claim 2 as new claim 21, then delete claims 1 and 2.

Amend claim 3 to depend from new claim 21.

Claim 4 (Amended). The modular table top display apparatus of claim [1] 21, wherein two horizontal cross member(s) are [is] used to extend the length of

the modular table top display apparatus, and to provide a more compact disassembly, for ease of transport and storage.

Amend claim 5 through 7 to depend from new claim 21.

Claim 8 (Amended). The modular table top display apparatus of claim [1] 21, wherein an end connector is provided to close off the [open] distal end of each of the [table top braces and the] horizontal clamping arms.

Claim 9 (Amended). The modular table top display apparatus of claim [1] 21, wherein the position of the [table top brace, the lower extension and the] clamping arms are offset in relation to the vertical tubular member on each of the first and second upright sub-assemblies to position the clamp arm at least four inches inward of the opposing ends of the table top to position the clamping means to avoid obstacles located underneath the table top.

There were no changes required to claims 10 and 11.

Claims 12-20 have been previously allowed, thus no changes were made to claims 12-20.

New Claim 21. A modular table top display apparatus to be supported and secured to a new or existing table top, which comprises:

- a) a first upright sub-assembly, comprising at least one vertical tubular member, a upper connector secured to the upper end of the first vertical tubular member, and a lower connector secured to the lower end of the vertical tubular member;
- b) a first clamping means positioned beneath the first upright sub-assembly, the first clamping means having a horizontal table top brace, a depending lower extension, and a horizontal clamping arm with a vertical aperture located near the distal end of the horizontal clamping arm, a threaded nut secured within the horizontal clamping arm in alignment with the vertical aperture, a threaded rod engaging the threaded nut, and extending through the vertical aperture, a handle secured to the lower end of the threaded rod, the threaded rod sized to engage the bottom of the table top when the handle is tightened, and to clear the depending lip of the table top when the handle is loosened;
- c) a second upright sub-assembly, comprising at least one vertical tubular member, an upper connector secured to the upper end of the vertical tubular member, and a lower connector secured to the lower end of the vertical tubular member;
- d) a second clamping means positioned beneath the second upright sub-assembly, the clamping means having a horizontal table top brace, a depending lower extension, and a horizontal clamping arm with a vertical aperture located near the distal end of the horizontal clamping arm, a threaded nut secured within the horizontal clamping arm in alignment with the vertical aperture, a threaded rod engaging the threaded nut, and extending through the vertical aperture, a handle

secured to the lower end of the threaded rod, the upper end of the threaded rod sized to engage the bottom of the table top when the handle is tightened, and to clear the depending lip of the table top when the handle is loosened;

e) at least one upper horizontal cross member, the upper horizontal cross member(s) sized to extend between the connector secured to the upper end of the first upright sub-assembly and the connector secured to the upper end of the second upright sub-assembly;

f) at least one lower horizontal cross member(s), the lower horizontal cross member(s) sized to extend between the lower connector secured to the lower end of the first upright sub-assembly and the lower connector secured to the lower end of the second upright sub-assembly;

g) [and] a flexible sheet material sized to be releasably secured to a frame formed by the vertical tubular member on the first upright sub-assembly, the vertical tubular member on the second upright sub-assembly, the upper horizontal cross member and the lower horizontal cross member at assembly; and the horizontal clamping arms of the first and second upright sub-assemblies are pivotal in relation to the respective first and second upright sub-assemblies, to selectively position the clamp means to avoid objects located on the underside of the table top.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been rejected over Hamilton and Sandahl et al.

Claim 1 and claim 2 have been rewritten as new claim 21.

New claim 21 includes the pivotal clamping arms 52 of claim 2 with the frame and flexible sheet material 61 disclosed in claim 1. This combination has advantages not taught in Hamilton or Sandahl et al. The pivotal clamping arms can be selectively positioned to avoid the sub-structure of a variety of table tops, as noted in the specification, paragraph [0048].

After new claim 21 has been considered, then delete claims 1 and 2.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from new claim 21. Claim 4 has also been amended on line 2, to delete [is], and add - - are - - after member(s).

Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from new claim 21.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC112 as being indefinite. Antecedent basis is found on page 15, third paragraph, of the specification as originally filed. See paragraph [0062]. Also note FIG. 3, items 93-96, as amended.

Claim 8 has been amended to depend from new claim 21, and to delete [open] and add - - distal - - in line 2, and to delete [table top braces and the], and add - - horizontal - - on line 3. Claim 8 has been rejected for lack of antecedent basis. Claim 8 has been amended in line 2, wherein The [open] end has been deleted, and - - distal- - end added, and reference to the [table top braces and] have been deleted. Also add - - horizontal - - before "table top

braces." In line three. See claim 1 b) and 1d) as originally filed, also see FIG. 4A, 4B, 6A and 6B, and specification, paragraph [0047], [0052] and [0055], as originally filed.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from new claim 21, and to delete [table top brace, the lower extension and the] in line 2.

Claim 9 has been rejected for lack of antecedent basis, as "the table top brace" lacks antecedent basis. See Claim 1 b), line 2 and Claim 1 d), line 2-3, as originally filed. Also see paragraph [0065] in the application as filed.

Thus claim 9 is believed to have antecedent basis, and therefore is now believed to be allowable.

The examiner has noted that claims 12-20 are allowable.

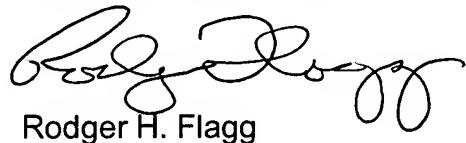
Claims 2, 5, 7, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. These claims have been amended to depend from new claim 21, and thus are now believed to be allowable.

Thus, there were three independent claims and a total of 20 claims in the application as filed. There are now three independent claims and a total of 19 claims in the amended patent application. Thus no additional fees are believed to be required, prior to receiving a Notice of Allowance in the amended patent application. Therefore allowance of claims 3 through 21 is hereby respectfully requested.

Please advise if any further changes are required prior to gaining allowance of the pending patent application. I am available for an examiner

interview Monday through Friday, from 9:30AM through 5:30PM, by calling (703) 535-5455. My offices are located at 2121 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22039, right next to the new USPTO. I would be delighted to meet you, and personally thank you for the diligent and thorough review of my pending patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Rodger H. Flagg

Enclosure:

Amendment dated 07/05/05

Marked up copy of the Specification as originally filed (7/0505)

Clean copy of the Amended Specification (7/05/05)

Marked up copy of the drawings as originally filed were submitted on 3/25/05

New Formal drawings were submitted on 3/25/05

Post Card receipt